



Illinois Ethics Matters

November 19, 2014

www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov

Honesty, Integrity, Service

A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies
of the Illinois Governor

Office of Executive Inspector General

Ricardo Meza
Executive
Inspector General

David Keahl
Chief of Staff

Kristy Shores
First Deputy Inspector
General

Daniel Hurtado
General Counsel

Laura K. Bautista
Deputy Inspector
General & Chief of
Springfield Division

Fallon Opperman
Deputy Inspector
General & Chief of
Regional Transit Board
Division

Claudia P. Ortega
Director of Finance and
Administration

Chicago Office:
69 W. Washington St.
Suite 3400
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 814-5600

Springfield Office:
607 E. Adams St.
14th Floor
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 558-5600

Hotline:
Phone: (866) 814-1113

TTY:
(888) 261-2734

Recent News

The OEIG is pleased to announce the following changes to its staff:

- **Claudia P. Ortega** is promoted to director of finance and administration, effective November 5, 2014.
- **Danielle Cantrell** joined the OEIG as an investigator in the Regional Transit Board Division, effective October 28, 2014
- **Stephen Peters** joined the OEIG as supervising investigator in the Springfield Division, effective November 10, 2014.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Appoints Special Master



On October 24, 2014, United States Magistrate Judge Sidney I. Schenkier appointed Noelle Brennan as Special Master to monitor hiring matters at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). In issuing its ruling, the Court referred to the OEIG's Final Summary Report relating to IDOT's hiring practices (*In re: Schneider et al.*, (11-01567)), and stated that:

"when you look at the kind of work that was done by the Inspector General, the length of that investigation, the number of people it took to conduct the investigation, the length of time it took, I think it's plain that the Court is not, on its own, able to perform that kind of function."

The Court also specifically noted the OEIG's work in "play[ing] a role in cleaning up a problem."

In addition to appointing Ms. Brennan as Special Master, the Court appointed Thomas McQueen to serve as her Counsel and authorized the Special Master to retain staff to assist her in carrying out her duties. In a November 18, 2014 Agreed Order Appointing a Special Master, among other provisions, the Court required IDOT to compensate the Special Master and her Counsel at a rate of \$250 per hour, and required IDOT to also compensate the Special Master for "any and all reasonable costs necessary to fulfill" her work.

"The appointment of a Special Master does not preclude the OEIG from continuing to review and investigate all state agencies' hiring and employment practices and when appropriate, issue Final Summary Reports. As an independent agency, we will continue performing our duties in this regard."

- **Executive Inspector General Ricardo Meza**

Since 2009, the OEIG has completed more than 120 investigations related to state agency hiring practices.

Daniel Hurtado
General Counsel

Reminder: Employees Must Complete Ethics Training

A reminder to state employees, the Ethics Act states that:

"Each officer, member, and employee must complete, at least annually, an ethics training program..."

- **State Officials and Employees Ethics Act**

In addition to the annual training for current employees, new employees, appointees and officials are required to complete ethics training within 30 days of the commencement of their employment or office.

Ultimate jurisdictional authorities, such as the governor or the boards of the state public universities, must report to the OEIG and the Executive Ethics Commission the identity of their employees who fail to complete ethics training during 2014. Reports are due not later than February 1, 2015.

David Morrison
Director of Ethics Training
& Compliance